

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAB-01 /056 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:HLSTEIN:MBB

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

ARA/PAN:PFMORRIS

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ARA/PAF:KMARSHALL

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P 062357Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

1. SENATOR STROM THURMOND MARCH 4, WITH 36 CO-SPONSORS, INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CONTINUED AND UN-DILUTED U.S. SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PANAMA CANAL AND CANAL ZONE AND OPPOSING ANY TRANSFER OF QUOTE UNITED STATES - OWNED PROPERTY, TANGIBLE OR INTANGIBLE, WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION BY THE CONGRESS (HOUSE AND SENATE), AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3, CLAUSE 2, OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. UNQUOTE. THE RESOLUTION IS SIMILAR TO ONE INTRODUCED BY SENATOR THURMOND LAST YEAR WHICH HAD 34 CO-SPONSORS.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SENATOR THURMOND OR ONE OF HIS

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CO-SPONSORS COULD USE THE RESOLUTION TO GENERATE SUPPORT

FOR SENATE HEARINGS ON TREATY TALKS PRIOR TO FINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND PANAMA. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY FURTHER PLANS BY THE SENATOR.

3. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE THURMOND RESOLUTION WILL BE MISREAD IN LATIN AMERICA AS INDICATIVE THAT THE NEW TREATY, WHEN NEGOTIATED, WILL NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN THE SENATE. THIS CONCLUSION IS PREMATURE. THE REAL

SENATE ALIGNMENT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE TERMS OF THE TREATY NEGOTIATED. WE BELIEVE THAT A TREATY THAT PROTECTS OUR BASIC INTERESTS AND IS FAIR TO BOTH SIDES WILL COMMAND THE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

4. EMBASSIES SHOULD BE ALERT TO MISREADINGS FOR THE THURMOND RESOLUTION AND USE THE GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 3 TO CORRECT THEM. YOU SHOULD ALSO DRAW ON THE PANAMA SECTION OF THE SECRETARY'S HOUSTON SPEECH. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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